

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 1-5 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) Apparatus (1) for nebulising a liquid, in particular for aerosol therapy, of the type comprising:

a nebulising ampoule (2) provided with at least an opening (4; 5) for aspirating and/or expelling air from/to the environment and with a mouthpiece (3) for dispensing a nebulisation of medical product;

a valve (6) for regulating a flow of air into and/or out of the ampoule (2), said valve (6) being positioned in correspondence with said opening (4; 5), and characterised in that the valve (6) is of the type comprising: a shutter (8) able to move between an operative blocking configuration corresponding to an obstruction of said opening (4; 5) and an operative configuration of consent to the passage of the flow of air ; a ring (9) connected to the shutter (8) to anchor it to a tubular portion (2a) of the ampoule (2), said tubular portion (2a) being positioned in correspondence with the opening (4; 5); and a plurality of deformable connecting elements (10) between the ring (9) and the shutter (8) to allow said shutter (8) to move from said operative blocking configuration to said operative configuration of consent and vice versa, said movement being directly caused by an inspiration and/or expiration phase by a user- , characterised in that the deformable elements (10) are spiral shaped and have a first end fastened peripherally to the shutter (8) and a second end fastened to the ring (9).

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that it comprises a holed protective element (11) positioned in correspondence with the opening (4; 5) to prevent the introduction of foreign bodies into the ampoule (2), preventing any damage to the valve (6).

4. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that it comprises a second shutter (12) to cover an opening (5) of the ampoule (2) necessary to expel to the

environment air exhaled by a user, said second shutter (12) being a deformable reed-like body having an end (12a) fastened in correspondence with the opening (5) and an end (12b) that is free to move away from the opening (5) to uncover it at least partially and allow the escape of air.

5. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that the valve (6) is associated with a so-called supplementary, or secondary, channel (7) of the nebuliser ampoule (2).